

Message Text

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42

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 SPC-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 NSC-10 OMB-01 DRC-01 /078 W

----- 002406

R 031335Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7821

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO CSAF WASHDC

ADC ENT AFB COLORADO

MAC SCOTT AFB ILL

ARRS SCOTT AFB ILL

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2455

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR, DA, GL

SUBJ: WITHDRAWAL OF HELICOPTERS AT THULE

REF: COPENHAGEN 1684, CSAF MESSAGE P 271929Z JUL 73

SUMMARY. MFA PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY TORBEN RONNE CALLED AMBASSADOR ON OCTOBER 3 TO REQUEST THAT USG POSTPONE WITHDRAWAL OF THULE HELICOPTERS FOR "TRANSITIONAL PERIOD". HE APOLOGIZED FOR DELAY IN RESPONDING TO EMBASSY'S NOTIFICATION IN JUNE THAT WE INTENDED TO WITHDRAW THE TWO HELICOPTERS, BUT SAID MATTER HAD JUST COME TO HIS ATTENTION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT DANES KNOW THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE HELICOPTERS AT THULE THEMSELVES AND REALIZE THEY CAN NO LONGER RELY ON USG TO PERFORM THAT MISSION. MFA INFORMED US LATER THEY HOPE WE CAN RETAIN HELICOPTERS IN THULE UNTIL END OF MARCH 1974. END SUMMARY.

1. RONNE SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO SAY HOW LONG "TRANSITIONAL PERIOD" MIGHT LAST BUT HE HOPED TO GIVE EMBASSY AN ESTIMATE WITHIN A WEEK OR TWO. DANES HAVE HEARD THAT DELAY IN PHASE-OUT OF HELICOPTERS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AND WOULD GRATLY APPRECIATE IT IF THIS COULD BE ARRANGED. EMBOFFS WHO WERE WITH AMBASSADOR SAID THEIR LATEST INFORMATION WAS THAT WE
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HOPED TO WITHDRAW HELICOPTERS BY END OF DECEMBER THIS YEAR.

2. RONNE GAVE AMBASSADOR POUR MEMOIRE WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS;
QUOTE. THE MINISTRY OF GREENLAND HAS INFORMED THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT THE TWO HH-3 HELICOPTERS WHICH THE UNITED
STATES AIR FORCE INTENDS TO WITHDRAW FROM THULE AIR FORCE BASE
(U.S. EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 59 OF JUNE 26, 1973) WITH RESPECT TO MAIL,
PATIENT EVACUATION AND, TO A LIMITED DEGREE, PASSENGER CARRIAGE
AT PRESENT CONSTITUTE THE SOLE ALTERNATIVE TO TRANSPORT
BY DOG SLED DURING THE ANNUAL TEN-MONTH PERIOD WHEN THE
WATERS OF THE THULE DISTRICT ARE NOT NAVIGABLE. THE MINISTRY OF
GREENLAND WOULD APPRECIATE A POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF THE WITH-
DRAWAL OF THE HELICOPTERS UNTIL THE EXPIRATION OF A TRANSITIONAL
PERIOD.

A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WOULD BE DEVOTED TO STUDIES OF ALTERNATIVE
TRANSPORT POSSIBILITIES IN THE AREA AND POSSIBLY TO THE
PLACING OF AN ORDER FOR A CIVILIAN HELICOPTER. IN THIS CONNECTION
IT WOULD BE OF VALUE TO HAVE A CIVILIAN HELICOPTER CREW BRIEFED
BY UNITED STATES HELICOPTER PILOTS ABOUT FLYING CONDITIONS IN
THE AREA. MOREOVER, THE DANISH SIDE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE WITH THE
UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES WHETHER FACILITIES AT THULE AIR
FORCE BASE MAY BE AVAILABLE TO A CIVILIAN HELICOPTER. END QUOTE.

3. SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL (KISUM) TELEPHONED EMBOFF LATER IN DAY TO
REPORT THAT MINISTRY OF GREENLAND WOULD LIKE USAF HELICOPTERS TO
REMAIN FOR SIX MONTHS MORE, I.E; UNTIL END OF MARCH, BECAUSE OF DIF-
FICULTY IN MAKING ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS DURING LONG DARK
WINTER PERIOD WHICH IS JUST BEGINNING.

4. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
CROWE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: cunninfx
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30 JUN 2005

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